

UNIT 13 "For and Against" Essays

- 1 a) Look at the pictures and talk about the pros and cons of eating out at restaurants. Think about the service, the menu, the prices, and the atmosphere.



- b) Read the points below, then listen to the cassette and tick those mentioned. Which of these points are advantages and which are disadvantages?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| A fun to eat out | <input type="checkbox"/> | D expensive | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B not as tiring as cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> | E unhealthy | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C have to book in advance | <input type="checkbox"/> | F not hygienic | <input type="checkbox"/> |

"For and against" essays are one type of discursive writing in which you discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a specific topic. A "For and against" essay should consist of:

- a) an **introduction** in which you present the topic, making a general remark about it without giving your opinion;
 - b) a **main body** in which you present the points for and the points against, in separate paragraphs, supporting your arguments with justifications/examples;
 - c) a **conclusion** which includes your opinion (e.g. *In my opinion/view, I believe/think*, etc) or a balanced summary of the topic.
- You must **not** include opinion words (I believe, I think, etc) in the introduction or the main body. Opinion words can only be used in the final paragraph, where you may state your opinion on the topic.
 - "For and against" essays are normally written in a **formal style**; therefore you should avoid using strong language (I know, I am sure, etc), short sentences, colloquial expressions or idioms.

You can find this type of writing in articles in newspapers, magazines, etc.

- 2 Read the rubric and underline the key words, then answer the questions.

You have had a class discussion about different forms of travel. Your teacher has now asked you to write an **essay** presenting the arguments for and against travelling by boat.

- 1 What type of essay should you write?
- 2 Should you use short sentences, colloquial expressions and idioms? If not, why?
- 3 Which of the following points could be included in your essay? Tick (✓). Which points are pros and which are cons? Can you add any other ideas?

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1 cheaper than other forms of travel | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 journeys can take a long time | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 can be unpleasant in bad weather | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 more comfortable and enjoyable than other forms of transport | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 lots of people go on sailing holidays | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 famous explorers travelled the seven seas | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Introduction

Paragraph 1

present topic (without stating your opinion)

Main Body

Paragraph 2

arguments for, with justifications/examples

Paragraph 3

arguments against, with justifications/examples

Conclusion

Final Paragraph

your opinion/balanced summary

3 a) Read the article and label the paragraphs with the correct headings. What is the writer's opinion on the topic? Finally, replace the topic sentences in the main body paragraphs with alternative ones.

- arguments against
- arguments for

- opinion
- present topic

Introduction

Did you know the boat was one of the first forms of transport? A hundred years ago, the only way to make a journey across the sea was by boat. Nowadays, however, when it is possible to fly from one continent to another in the space of a few hours, is there any reason to travel by boat?

Para 1

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.....
.....

Main Body

Although the boat is a rather old-fashioned way of travelling, it has certain advantages. **To begin with**, boats are usually more comfortable than planes or cars. Instead of staying in your seat for the whole journey, you can go for a walk on the deck, eat in a restaurant, or even go shopping. Having more space to move around makes a long journey much more pleasant. **Furthermore**, boats are often cheaper than other forms of travel. **For example**, a boat ticket usually costs less than a plane ticket. **Finally**, boats are a safe alternative to cars and planes. There are fewer accidents at sea than in the air or on the roads.

Para 2

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.....
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Conclusion

However, travelling by boat does have its disadvantages. It usually takes much longer than other forms of travel. **As a result**, it can be more tiring. **In addition**, boat trips can be very unpleasant when the weather is bad or the sea is rough, making journeys uncomfortable or even frightening.

Para 3

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.....

All things considered, although there are some disadvantages to travelling by boat, I believe it is a very enjoyable experience. Journeys may take longer, but if you have time to spare, you can take advantage of the many facilities which boats have to offer and enjoy a pleasant voyage.

Para 4

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.....
.....

b) Read the article again and fill in the blanks below. Then, using expressions from the box on the right, talk about the pros and cons of travelling by boat.

Main Body

FOR

Arguments

- 1) more comfortable than other forms of travel
- 2)
- 3)

Justifications/Examples

go for a walk, eat in a restaurant, go shopping, have more space to move around

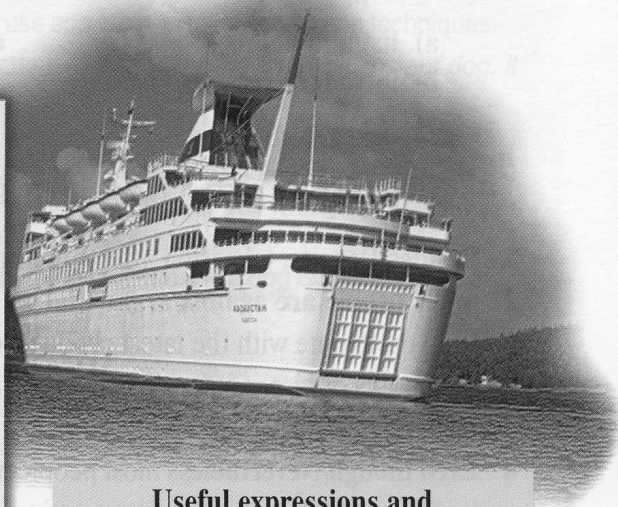
AGAINST

Arguments

- 1)
- 2)

Justifications/Examples

.....
.....



Useful expressions and linking words/phrases

- **to list and add points:** In the first place, To start/begin with, Secondly, Thirdly, Finally, In addition (to this), Furthermore, Moreover, Besides, etc.
- **to introduce or list advantages:** The main/first/most important advantage of..., One/Another/An additional advantage of..., One point of view in favour of..., It is often suggested/ believed/argued that..., Some/Many people suggest/feel argue that..., Some/ Many people are in favour of /are convinced that... etc.
- **to introduce or list disadvantages:** The main/most important disadvantage/ drawback of..., One/Another/An additional disadvantage of..., One point/argument against..., Some/Many people are against... , etc.
- **to introduce examples/reasons/results:** for example/instance, such as, like, in particular, therefore, for this reason, because, as, since, as a result, etc.
- **to show contrast:** On the other hand, However, still, but, Nonetheless, Nevertheless, Although, Even though, Despite/In spite of (the fact that), etc.
- **to introduce a conclusion:** In conclusion, To conclude/sum up, All in all, Finally, Lastly, All things considered, Taking everything into account/consideration, etc.

KEY

Unit 13 - "For and Against" Essays (pp. 82 - 87)

- 1 a) (Explain what is meant by **pros** and **cons**, then elicit suitable points from Ss around the class.)

(Suggested answers)

Pros

The service can be very fast.
There can be lots of dishes to choose from.
The prices can be fairly reasonable.
Its relaxing atmosphere can make you enjoy your meal.

Cons

The service can be very slow.
There may not be much variety of dishes.
The restaurant can be very expensive.
The music can be so loud that it can drive you crazy.

- b) (Read the list of points aloud and ensure that Ss understand each point. Ss listen to the cassette and tick the comments mentioned. Check answers around the class and elicit whether each point is an advantage or a disadvantage.)

(Points to be ticked)

- A fun to eat out (advantage)
- B not as tiring as cooking (advantage)
- D expensive (disadvantage)
- E unhealthy (disadvantage)

- 2 (Present the theory and the paragraph plan. Check that Ss understand the rubric and the questions, then help Ss identify the key words.)

Key words: your teacher — essay — arguments for and against travelling by boat

- 1 A "for and against" essay
- 2 No, because discursive essays are written in a formal style.

3 (Points to be ticked)

- 1 — pro
- 2 — con
- 4 — con
- 5 — pro

(Ss' own answers)

Para 2	FOR Arguments 2) cheaper than other forms of travel 3) safe alternative to cars and planes
	Justifications/Examples a boat ticket usually costs less than a plane ticket fewer accidents at sea than in the air or on the roads
Para 3	AGAINST Arguments 1) usually takes much longer than other forms of travel 2) can be very unpleasant when the weather is bad or the sea is rough
	Justifications/Examples can be tiring uncomfortable or even frightening